



## New Study on Intimate Partner Violence

Nearly 25 percent of women report that they have been raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabitating partner, or date at some time in their life, according to a report released July 13 by the U.S. Justice Department's National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence* is based on the results of the National Violence Against Women Survey (NVAWS), which compares victimization rates among women and men, racial and ethnic groups, and same-sex and opposite sex couples. It was written by Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes.

"Violence among intimates involves relationships and factors that are too complex to be captured by a single research approach," said Julie Samuels, Acting Director of the NIJ. "These survey findings significantly contribute to our understanding of violence between intimates. The NVAWS is a cooperative effort that brings together federal justice and health agencies to analyze estimates of intimate partner violence."



## Victimization of Women

*Extent* finds that women "experience more intimate partner violence than do men." While nearly 25 percent of women report that they have been a victim of physical or sexual violence committed by an intimate partner, only 7.6 percent of men report being victims of similar violence. The report estimates that approximately 1.5 million women are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States. But *Extent* notes that because many "victims are victimized more than once, the number of intimate partner victimizations exceeds the number of intimate partner victims annually."

Female victims of intimate partner violence experience more "chronic and injurious" physical assaults at the hands of intimate partners than do men. *Extent* concludes that 41.5 percent of women physically assaulted by an intimate partner were "injured during their most recent assault," compared with 19.9 percent of men.

Female victims of physical violence also are likely to be victims of emotional abuse. *Extent* finds that physical violence against women "is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior." In fact, the report states that having a verbally abusive partner is a variable "most likely" to predict that a woman would be victimized by an intimate partner. "These findings support the theory that violence perpetrated against women by intimates is often part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control," it concludes.

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**Peggy Bilsten, Chair**  
City of Phoenix,  
Councilmember

## From the Chair

I'm very proud to introduce the first MAG Domestic Violence Council Newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep those interested in the domestic violence planning process informed of the progress of the Council – as we work to bring about a more community coordinated response to domestic abuse. The newsletter will also have updates on how we're doing in implementing the recommendations in the 1999 MAG Regional Domestic Violence Plan.

In this first issue, I felt it important to focus on the incidence of domestic violence in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. One shocking statistic states that nearly 1 in 4 women are likely to be assaulted by an intimate partner at some point in her life. That means that it is highly likely that we interact on a daily basis with both victims and batterers in our communities.

The Profiles Section of the newsletter will highlight the various cities and towns in Maricopa County that are working hard to address the effects that this issue has on their communities. I feel strongly that we must all work together and learn from each other if we are ever to alleviate this horrific social problem.

To keep pace with the electronic age, the Council has voted to electronically distribute the newsletter to save on cost of production as well as to encourage you to forward the newsletter on to other interested individuals. I want to personally encourage you to send it to as many as you can to get this vital information out – and possibly assist in saving a life.

I want to encourage you to stay involved in this important work. For more information contact MAG Staff at (602) 254-6300.

Thank you and God Bless

## MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council

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Women also are more likely to be stalked by an intimate partner than are men, finds *Extent*, which concludes that stalking by intimate partners is “more prevalent than previously thought.” Nearly five percent of women and 0.6 percent of men report being stalked by a current or former intimate partner at some time in their life. Based on this finding, *Extent* estimates that 503,485 women and 185,496 men are stalked by an intimate partner annually in this country. These numbers

demonstrate that stalking “is a serious criminal justice problem,” the report says, calling on states to “develop constitutionally sound and effective anti-stalking statutes and intervention strategies.”

This is an excerpt of an article from the Family Violence Prevention Fund Web site at <http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash>

Copies of *Extent*, *Nature*, and *Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence* are available on the NIJ web site, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/welcome.html>.



## RESOURCES OF THE COUNCIL:

### PUBLICATIONS:

- Workplace Training Manual
- Brochures for Faith Based and Employer Communities
- Model Guide for Local Coordinating Councils on Domestic Violence
- MAG Domestic Violence Web site @ <http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/DV/index.html>
- Distribution of over 200,000 Safety Plans in English and Spanish

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING:

The Council has sponsored training from leading national domestic violence experts and has trained over 300 people from the following disciplines:

- Faith Leaders
- Child Protective Service Caseworkers
- State Directors/Executives
- Arizona Attorney General's Office
- Hospital Personnel
- Arizona State Legislators
- MAG Domestic Violence Council Members
- Human Resource Professionals

## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT YEAR:

- **Workplace** - assist local governments in Maricopa County to adopt policies and practices to keep victims safe in the workplace.
- **Faith Based** - facilitate development of a resource manual and training for faith leaders to assist victims in their congregations
- **Crisis Response** - promote the use of Crisis Response Teams at the scene of a domestic violence incident to provide access to social services and other vital resources for victims and their children.
- **Local Coordinating Councils** - coordinate efforts among the various departments in local governments that deal with domestic violence to strengthen links and enhance response.
- **Health Care** - protocols identifying minimum requirements for annual training of all hospital personnel.



Crisis Response Van

For more information contact MAG Staff at (602) 254-6300.

## Upcoming Events

### October DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH!

(Contact MAG Staff for list of ways for your organization to participate in breaking the cycle of abuse in our community)

### October 17 Religious Response to Domestic Violence

The Paradise Valley United Methodist Church will host the third annual faith based conference. The MAG Domestic Violence Council is a co-sponsor of the event.

### October 17 & 18 Jim Hardeman Workplace Violence Training

The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV) will host Mr. Hardeman for a two day training to those organizations interested in implementing policies and practices to address violence in the workplace.

### November 9 Domestic Violence Council

Last meeting of 2000.



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## Council Member Profiles

### McMurry Publishing

McMurry Publishing has recently assisted MAG with the development of the workplace policies manual to be used in the statewide Corporate Citizenship Initiative. Preston McMurry Jr, McMurry Publishing's Founder has made significant contributions to the issue of Domestic Violence with Theresa's Fund which is a private foundation dedicated to eliminating this devastating social issue.

### City of Surprise and Northwest Community Council

The City of Surprise has taken the lead in a regional collaborative involving Peoria, El Mirage, Sun City West to institute a Crisis Response Team and Local Coordinating Council. They have received funding from the Governor's Office to begin implementing these two desperately needed services in the northwest valley.

### Sojourner Center, American Express, AWEE and Project Journey

Sojourner Center will house a customer service training center on-site to train victims and program graduates will be employed at American Express. Project Journey is an excellent example of an innovative approach between three entities which will equally benefit from this collaborative.

### Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

A grant for \$25,000 from the Philip Morris Doors of Hope was made to assist with The Third Annual Religious Response to Domestic Violence Conference on October 17, 2000 and the development of a faith based manual for religious leaders to use as a resource to help victims and batterers in their congregation. The MAG Domestic Violence Council will be convening a special faith based team to develop the manual and conduct follow up training to religious institutions.